use the INSAT system of satellite launched by the Department of Space. The purpose is to use satellite communications to transmit money order messages. In second phase it is proposed to introduce new money transfer services and electronic mail services also.

To ease the heavy traffic of letters in Bombay, orders have been placed on M/s. Bell Telephone Manufacturing Company, Belgium to instal mechanised sorting equipment in Bombay. This equipment has a computer element. It is proposed in the 8th Plan to instal a chain of such equipment in six metro cities.

In the phase I of electronic money transfer project, it is proposed to instal micro-earth stations at 75 Post Offices and use the Remote Area Business Message Network of the Department of Telecommunications. The micro earth stations will be used to transmit money order advices in order to speed up payment of money orders. In phase II, the Department proposes to have its own network like RABMN.

The mechanised sorting equipment ordered for Bombay consists of 30 coding desks to bar code mail. This coded mail will be sorted mechanically by using two letter sorting machines each at a speed of 30,000 letters per hour.

The electronic money transfer project will speed up payment of money orders to rural areas. In phase II, electronic mail services will be offered. Other more sophisticated money transfer services will also be introduced. All these measures will increase customer satisfaction. There will be some savings in manpower. This manpower will be deployed against vacancies and requirements elsewhere. There will be no retrenchment.

The mechanised sorting equipment will case the bottle necks in sorting and speed up delivery of mail. There will be some savings in manpower. This manpower will be deployed against vacancies and requirements elsewhere. There will be no retrenchment.

The total investment in electronic money transfer project of phase I is Rs. 12 crores and of Phase II is 62 crores. There will be recurring expenditure also. But a net savings of Rs. 5.51 crores per annum has been estimated.

The investment on mechanised sorting equipment ordered for Bombay is of the order of Rs. 8.00 crores. The customs duty will be in addition.

Production Target of Electronic Switching System Factory

1728. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mankapur based electronic switching system factory as also the six departmental telecom factories at Bombay, Calcutta, Jabalpur, Bhilai and Kharagpur producing different equipments, have failed to achive their production targets;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the telecom sector modernisation has been slowed down due to the above and other factors; and

(d) if so, what steps Government are taking to overcome this situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The production targets during 1991-92 have been exceeded in respect of Mankapur Unit of ITI, Telecom Factories at Bombay and Jabalpur. Telecom Factories at Calcutta, Bhilai and Kharagpur could achieve the targets.

In turnover of all Telecom Factories during 1991-92 has been 94.26% of the production target and as such the shortfall is only marginal.

(b) The shortfall in the Telecom Factories is mainly due to:

(i) Load shedding by State Electricity Board in case of Kharagpur.

(ii) Retraining and redeployment of worker in completely different trades.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.